

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00273 121356Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03 AGRE-00 AID-05
/082 W

-----128449 121359Z /43

R 112227Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5673
DEA HQS WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJ: NARCOTICS REGIONAL COOPERATION - ENFORCEMENT

REF: STATE 301775

1. MISSION BELIEVES REGIONAL COOPERATION IS NECESSARY FOR
ANY TRULY EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT
CONCEPTS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL, BUT PROPOSE THEY BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE ONE MORE COUNTRY AND TO INITIATE EFFORTS TOWARDS
DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL TIES.

2. MISSION RECOMMENDS PANAMA BE INCLUDED IN PROJECT. PANAMA
IS A NARCOTICS TRANSHIPMENT AND FINANCING CENTER AS WELL AS A
LOCATION WHERE TRAFFICKERS MEET TO NEGOTIATE THEIR BUSINESS
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 00273 121356Z

DEALS. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
BETWEEN PANAMA AND COLOMBIA AND THERE IS THE POTENTIAL FOR
SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
AS WELL AS WITH THE OTHER ANDEAN COUNTRIES AS REGARDS TRAFFICKING
BYPASSING COLOMBIA.

3. MISSION FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO

ESTABLISHING THE BEGINNINGS OF PERMANENT AND FORMALIZED REGIONAL TIES IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE EVOLUTION OF SUCH TIES FROM ONE-MONTH, JOINT OPERATIONS WITHOUT CONSCIOUS EFFORT AT SYSTEMATIC PLANNING COULD WELL NOT PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS. ONE TENTATIVE SUGGESTION IS THAT WITHIN THE MAJOR ENFORCMENT ENTITY IN EACH COUNTRY THERE BE ESTABLISHED A SMALL UNIT THAT SPECIALIZES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION AND MAINTAINS CONTINUING WORKING TIES WITH THE COUNTERPART UNITS IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES SO THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY KNOW HOW AND WHOM TO CONTACT WHEN THE NEED ARISES.

4. PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF REORGANIZATION OF NARCOTICS ENFORCMENT FUNCTIONS IN COLOMBIA, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS INVITATIONS TO INITIAL MEETING BE EXTENDED TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE AS POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE OF GOC AND TO ATTORNEY GENERAL AS LEGAL (BUT NON-POLITICAL) REPRESENTATIVE. LATTER IS ALSO TOP OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCMENT. MISSION WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND POSSIBLY DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE (WHO WOULD BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR AG NARCOTICS UNIT AND WHO IS ALSO AVIATION COORDINATOR) BE INVITED IF INTIAL MEETING IS TO INCLUDE SECOND ECHELON PERSONNEL. MISSION WOULD NOT RECOMMEND HEADS OF NATIONAL POLICE AND DAS BE INVITED UNLESS IT BECOMES CLEAR IN MEANTIME THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES.

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 00273 121356Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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